

possession of Mr. R. Henry Phillips, game warden of Fairfield County, who skinned the bird, and from whom I received it in exchange. Mr. Phillips says it was taken after a storm of wind and sleet, and is a female.

The first specific record for the State was mentioned by Bartram in his 'Travels' (second edition, 1794, 285). Audubon<sup>1</sup> says: "Several individuals have been procured in South Carolina, one on James Island [near Charleston], another, now in the Charleston Museum, on Clarkson's plantation [near Columbia], and a fine one was shot at Columbia, the seat of government, from the chimney of one of the largest houses in that town, and was beautifully preserved by Professor [Lewis R.] Gibbes of the Columbia College."

Mr. Leverett M. Loomis,<sup>2</sup> in reference to a specimen seen by him at Chester, says: "During the early part of December, 1886, I saw an individual several times under circumstances that dispelled all doubt from my mind as to its identity."

About the middle of February, 1899, I picked up a feather in a primeval forest near my house which must have belonged to a Snowy Owl, as the color, texture, size, elasticity, etc., plainly showed that it was an owl's feather. It was marked like some feathers of the White Gyrfalcon (*Falco islandus*), but did not possess the rigidity of that bird's feathers.

As far as my information extends this makes the fourth specimen of the Snowy Owl taken in South Carolina since Audubon wrote.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

**Nesting Colonies of the Green-crested Flycatcher and Parula Warbler, Past and Present.**—On May 31, 1893, during a visit to my brother while at School at Suffolk, Va., we managed to break away from commencement exercises long enough to pay a visit to Lake Kilby, situated about a mile from the center of town. Then, as now, the lake furnished the water supply for the cities of Suffolk and Portsmouth, but at that time a large number of pleasure boats were kept on it, and no permit was necessary to fish or enjoy an outing on its placid but juniper stained waters. My brother had visited the lake a few days previous to my arrival and found that both the Parula Warbler (*Compsothlypis americana*) and the Green-crested Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) had established themselves in large colonies on the lake, with nests completed. We arrived at the pump house about 8 A. M. and after securing a small double-ended bateau with paddles, pushed off. The lake, which is quite deep, is surrounded by high ground, while along the edges and growing in the water near the shore are juniper trees, which at that time were festooned with the beautiful long hanging Spanish moss. A few trees, mostly with dead tops, and stumps, were scattered here and there over the surface, the latter well filled with nests of the House Wren, Bluebird, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, and Prothonotary Warbler.

<sup>1</sup> Birds of America, I, 1840, 115.

<sup>2</sup> Auk, VIII, 1891, 55, 56.

These species had no charm for us that day for as our boat skirted the fringe of trees near shore, nearly every lower branch contained one or more nests of the Acadian Flycatcher and Parula Warbler, sometimes two or more nests of each species in one tree. The general run though was a nest of the warbler in the long Spanish moss near the extremity of the limb, while further in toward the trunk and on a small crotch, was that of the flycatcher. We never had to climb the trees for any, there were plenty within reach from the boat, nor did we examine more than a small portion of the lower end of the lake before we had a sufficiently large series of both species.

I should have mentioned before that Suffolk and Lake Kilby lie on the outskirts of the famous Dismal Swamp, the juniper trees in both places discoloring the water to a reddish brown, and all of the trees festooned formerly with the beautiful Spanish moss. The juniper water causes a total lack of water-fowl or shore birds.

In 1895, about May 28, my father and brother paddled from Suffolk down the little canal to Lake Drummond, in the heart of the Dismal Swamp, but found the above species sparingly distributed, and with either well incubated sets of eggs or young. I gave this section little thought until the season of 1909, when I suggested to my friend and local bird crank, J. E. Gould of Norfolk, that we take in once more Lake Kilby, promising him sights to open his eyes — for such they were in days of yore. After some little delay and red tape in securing a permit, thanks for which are due to Mr. Gould, we started for Suffolk on the first train the last day of May. Delay in schedule time of arrival of train landed us in Suffolk about nine A. M., while another fifteen or twenty minutes were consumed while walking to the lake. What a change a lapse of sixteen years had wrought. A new and handsome pump house with filtering tank buildings surrounded by well kept lawns greeted us at the old dam, but greater changes were yet in store for me. After changing our clothes for egg collector's regimentals and securing the still used old-time double-ended bateau, we made haste to make up for lost time. We commenced at the lower end with a systematic search of the trees in the lake and those bordering it. We had n't gone many turns of its broken shore line before it became apparent to me that it was "Happy days gone by," and while the same trees were still there, also many of the old stumps, the Spanish moss as well as the birds were lacking, almost a total absence of 'virescens' and 'americana.' Though we worked the whole shore line thoroughly, and special attention was given the heads of the ravines where the moss used to be thickest, only about a dozen trees had any moss on them. The total count of nests were — 'virescens,' two, one just finished, the other a set of two eggs; 'americana,' six, four nests just completed, a set of two, and one set of three eggs. We ate our lunch in disgust, for the single pair of Prothonotary Warblers seen had also baffled our prying eyes. This year I again resolved to visit the lake, but at a later date, hoping against hope things would be changed. I spent the

night of June 4 in Suffolk and the next morning reached the lake about six A. M. It had rained heavily during the night and the clouds were still black and threatening, and hardly had I pushed off from the pump house landing before rain came down in torrents. Making the best of a bad job, I again thoroughly worked the whole lake and its tributaries with the following result: Two full sets of three eggs of 'virescens,' and two sets, three each, of 'americana.' The moss is becoming more scarce each year on the trees, the cause for which I cannot account, and whether or not it is lack of building sites and material, or lack of insect food found in the moss that keeps the birds away I cannot say. In 1893 there must have been at least four or five hundred pairs of each; where have they gone? Have they followed the moss? I hear that the junipers in the Chickahominy Swamp are still festooned with this moss. I hope next season to investigate that locality for evidence of these birds. The nests of 'americana' are located in the center of a clump of hanging moss, composed of moss and lined with a little yellow or orange plant down. They are extremely hard to locate unless the bunch of moss is placed between you and the sky line, when a dark clump or spot reveals its presence.

The nest of 'virescens', composed of moss only, is always located on the crotch of a limb, in a slight depression. The shrill whistle of the birds soon disclose their whereabouts, and by watching them a few moments one can locate the nest, as they invariably fly over it or to it.—H. H. BAILEY, *Newport News, Va.*

**An Albinistic White-throated Sparrow.**—The spring migration of this year brought to Mt. Vernon, Iowa, an albinistic specimen of striking appearance and possibly rather more than usual interest. On Monday, April 25, a bird-lover of the town reported to me over the telephone "a large sparrow with a pure white head," the same having appeared on her grounds the day before. I found it to be a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) among many of its own species. The whole head and neck were white, with the exception of the yellow lores and a small black patch on the crown not larger than a grain of rice. The boundary line between the snowy white of the head and neck and the quite normal markings of all the other areas was regular and abrupt. The iris appeared normal. Although so conspicuously distinguished from its fellows the albino showed no peculiarities in conduct. With others of its flock it came under the windows for scattered seeds, where it fed without suspicion and during five days was frequently observed at a distance of four feet. The bird could not be collected without offense and presumably left with the bulk of the first wave of White-throated Sparrows during the night following April 28.—CHARLES R. KEYES, *Mound Vernon, Iowa.*

**Supposed Nesting of the Pine-woods and Bachman's Sparrows in Chatham County, Georgia.**—On the third of June, 1910, while collecting in the northern part of the county I heard a note that was unfamiliar